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Alexandria, VA 22304

October 20, 1985

Dear Mom and Dad,

We enjoyed hearing about Diane's viola playing in your latest letter. I'm looking forward to hearing her play next time we can get together. The book, "Religion and the Rise of Capitalism" is Dad's and I was returning it. "Bleak House" was for Mom and "The Europeans" for Mary. I just finished "The Charterhouse of Parma" by Stendall who also wrote "The Red and the Black". They are very enjoyable novels and easy to read.

We have had another busy week. I had a midterm exam in Numerical Analyses on Tuesday. Thursday night Vickie left work a little early and went to the Corcoran Gallery to see two exhibits which were near closing. One was on art related to Niagara Falls since it was discovered in the late 1600's. Have you visited Niagara Falls? Later we met at Dominiques, a French restaurant on Pennsylvania Avenue, that features a "pre-theater" menu at a very reasonable price.

We have been biking on Friday evenings after work. Last Friday was the last for the winter since it will be too dark when Daylight Savings Time goes away. We biked down Four Mile Run, a stream that runs near my old office at CNA and near Mary's old house in Arlandria. It was a beautiful Fall evening and the setting sun made the leaves in the trees glow with color.

Yesterday morning Vickie went to Latin class while I participated in a 15 mile race at Belle Haven. This morning Vickie went down and ran 20 miles as final preparation for the Marathon which is two weeks from today. Vickie leaves for Boston tomorrow morning. I will fly up Friday night and return on Sunday night. In November we have three operas to see and a production at the Folger Theatre.

Yesterday afternoon we drove down to Woodlawn Plantation which is on the way to Gunston Hall which you and we visited. I have enclosed the brochure which describes this very substantial mansion provided by George Washington to his niece on her wedding. Also on the grounds is a house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright that formerly sat in Falls Church, Virginia. It is a rare example of a style he developed for moderate income housing. I'm sure you would enjoy seeing it.

Now I have just one minute to brush my teeth before Masterpiece Theater starts so I will say goodbye for now!

Love,

Jim & Vickie